



Book: BYLAWS AND POLICIES

Section: 2000 PROGRAM

Title: HOMEWORK

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The following provisions represent the policy of the Board with regard to homework.

- A. GENERAL
1. The Board believes that homework is an essential part of the educational process, as well as a means of serving to tie the school more closely to the home. The Board expects all teachers to make reasonable homework assignments based on the students' needs, grade level, and sound educational purposes, but never as punishment.
 2. Homework is a task initiated or motivated in the classroom. The task is related to the subject being studied, and is performed during out-of-class time. Some homework consists of definite assignments made by the teacher; other homework may result from student's initiative in following classroom instruction in greater depth. Homework may take the form of additional guided practice or exercises, reading of material on a specified subject, in-depth follow-up of classroom activities, or independent project work related to the subject.
- B. THE PURPOSES OF HOMEWORK

1. Homework is an inherent part of the teacher/learning process that provides students with an opportunity to engage in independent practice of skills acquired in the classroom. It serves as an extension of classroom instruction, not as a substitution, and should prepare the student to benefit from subsequent learning opportunities.
2. Homework also helps to develop independence in study and work habits of students. It makes possible the use of various learning resources not available during school time, and a framework where students may learn without the hindrance of time limitations.
3. Because homework is an independent activity, it often provides for creative thinking and learning opportunities. Homework provides students with enrichment opportunities for which time cannot be found during the school day.

C. AMOUNT OF HOMEWORK

1. The amount of homework assigned to a student will vary depending upon the skill being practiced, whether it is a relatively new skill or a review assignment, the grade level of the student, and the readiness of the student to practice the skill independently.
2. If a student has been absent from school, additional homework assignments may be given in order to make up work missed during the period of absence. The student should be permitted a reasonable length of time to make up these assignments, which should be given in accordance with the Edison's Attendance Policy (Code P: JE).
3. Drill for its own sake is valueless and should be used only as a device to learn a particular concept or to develop a skill.
4. Primary Grades (K-3) - In order to instill within kindergarten students, the value of homework, simple assignment should begin very early. Homework at the kindergarten level should remain consistently short and easily accomplished by students. In grade 1-3, homework should be assigned regularly, and should generally be an extension of classroom activities. Homework at this level should not total more than thirty (30) minutes per day on the average. Out of consideration for students and parents, weekend assignments should be tempered.
5. Intermediate Grades (4-6) - Homework in certain subject areas should be assigned on a regular basis, especially

in reading, mathematics, language arts, social studies, and science. The homework should be meaningful and consistent with course objectives. Work missed due to absence may be assigned as homework in accordance with the Edison's Attendance Policy. In general, homework at this level should not total more than one (1) hour per day on the average. Out of consideration for students and parents, weekend assignments should be tempered.

6. Grades 7-8 - Homework at this level should be regularly assigned, not necessarily daily. Emphasis should be on language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. Homework should be meaningful and consistent with course objectives. Students may, at the teacher's discretion, continue assignments which were begun in class and not completed. Work missed due to absence may be assigned as homework in accordance with the Edison's Attendance Policy. In general, homework at this level should not total more than two (2) hours per day on the average. Teachers in Grades 7 and 8 should plan cooperatively in making assignments so that an equitable load for student results.

D. STUDENT RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Students have an obligation to record homework assignments, and take home with them the necessary books, supplies, and materials to complete the assignments.
2. Students should communicate with teachers and ask for help about an assignment if they are confused about what should be completed.
3. Students should be making every effort to complete assignments on time and turn them in to the teachers in an acceptable form which includes neatness and accuracy.
4. Students should explain to the teacher legitimate reasons that sometimes make it impossible to complete some homework assignments, while remembering that excuses do not justify incomplete assignments.

E. TEACHER RESPONSIBILITIES

1. Teachers should make certain that students understand the purposes for which homework is assigned, and that they know not only what to do, but how to do it.
2. It should be understood that various types of out-of-school activities are important aspects of child development. Homework should be not assigned in

such quantity that it precludes opportunities for students to find time for recreation, for music and dancing lessons, and for family or individual entertainment.

3. Teachers should keep in mind the total school program of students when doing homework assignments, remembering that more than one (1) assignment may need to be prepared during the same evening. Agreement should be reached cooperatively among middle school teachers within a building so that homework will be distributed evenly throughout the week.
4. Students should be instructed in methods of study, research, and time management before they are expected to work independently.
5. Teachers should follow through with every assignment made by evaluating the performance and giving appropriate credit and feedback.
6. Whenever possible, a student should be allowed to express creativity and individuality in homework activities.
7. Teachers should communicate with parents if a student consistently fails to do homework assignments.

F. PARENT RESPONSIBILITY

1. Parents should strive to provide a suitable environment for their children's homework, as free from distractions as possible. Radio and television should be monitored-while the homework is in progress. Whenever possible, auxiliary study aids should be provided in the home, such as dictionaries and reference material. A wholesome attitude toward homework should be developed with high priority given this among family activities.
2. It is permissible for parents to help children with their homework, but it is not proper that they do the homework for them. Homework is the child's responsibility, not the parents.
3. Parents should try to understand the purposes of the homework assigned and discuss this with the children. Copying or cheating on homework assignments is not acceptable.
4. Parents should show a vital interest in the homework of their children and help to develop an attitude that homework is an important part of the education of the child.

G. PRINCIPAL'S RESPONSIBILITY

1. Principals should be generally aware of teacher practices regarding homework assignments and assure that such are in keeping with this policy and sound educational practices.
2. Principals should inform teachers, parents, and students on the importance of homework as an extension of the learning process.

H. FURTHER RULE-MAKING AUTHORITY

The Executive Director is authorized to develop and adopt additional rules and regulations to further implement the intent and purpose of this policy and/or to assist Edison and their principal(s) in carrying out the provisions of this policy.